

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5, 7-9, and new claims 24-35 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is currently amended herein. Claim 6 has been cancelled herein. Claims 10-23 were cancelled previously in response to a restriction requirement.

The remarks and arguments submitted by Applicants in their previously filed petition for reconsideration of restriction requirement (filed Feb. 3, 2003), appeal brief (filed Feb. 3, 2003), and reply brief (filed June 7, 2004) are incorporated by reference into this RCE.

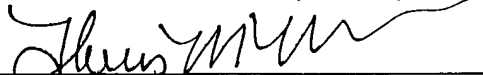
SUMMARY

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections. Applicants further submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicit timely notice of the same. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone, facsimile, or electronic mail.

Applicants believe that there are no additional fees due in association with the filing of this RCE and Amendment and Response. However, should the Commissioner deem that any fees are due, including any fees for extensions of time, the Commissioner is authorized to debit Baker Botts L.L.P. Deposit Account No. 02-0383, Order Number 002376.1017, for any underpayment of fees that may be due in association with this filing.

Respectfully submitted,

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